

**MINUTES  
CITY OF EDINA MINNESOTA  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION  
EDINA CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM  
Thursday January 10, 2013  
7:01 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER 7:01p.m.**

**II. ROLL CALL** Answering Roll Call was Brandt, Heer, Kostuch, Latham, Risser, Sokol, Thompson, Zarrin, and Chair Sierks

Absent: Gubrud, Rudnicki

Staff Present: Ross Bintner and Rebecca Foster

**III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Thompson to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes. Revise December Meeting Minutes and approve in February.
- B. Attendance report and roster
- C. Workgroup list and minutes

**Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Risser to approve the Minutes for November and Consent Agenda and amend the December Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**V. COMMUNITY COMMENT.** No Comments.

**VI. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Air and Water Quality WG. Member Risser explained the merger of the Air Quality and the Water Quality Working Groups was due to the Chair of the Water Quality stepping down and that both environments influence each other. In 2012, No Idle signs were installed at Concord Elementary & Creek Valley Elementary Schools encouraging residents not to idle their engines while they pick up and drop off children. The Working Group reviewed the Wellhead Protection Plan for the city. In 2013, the Working Group would like to encourage residents in getting the local lake names officially recognized by the DNR for their documents to be better understood. The Storm Water Pollution Plan will be reviewed this year too.
- B. Recycling & Solid Waste WG. Member Latham thanked all Recycling & Solid Waste Working Group Members for their participation and invited new members to call city hall if they want to join. In October 2012, Single Sort Recycling was approved by the City Council, so Member Latham reviewed what is and isn't acceptable to recycle now. She reviewed the 2012 comparison of single versus dual sort and how paper, glass and the new commodities has increased recycling by 8% during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2012 compared to 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2011. She said if residents would like to recycle organics they can contact Vierkant Disposal Inc. She reminded residents that the wheeled carts must be stored out of view of the

front yard per city code. She said you can contact the city if you'd like to upgrade or down grade your recycling cart size. She reminded residents that your green bins will not be picked up if you're using them for overflow. She suggested possibly working with a neighbor who recycles less to take your overflow. In 2012, 25 Recycling Bins were installed at City Parks; additional 25 bins will be installed yearly until a total of 100 bins have been installed. "No Pet Waste" Stickers will be placed on the Park Recycling Bins to stop contamination of the recyclables. If a bag of pet waste is put in a recycling bin, the entire contents of the bin will be put in the trash and not recycled. Organic Recycling has been implemented at City Hall & Edinborough and will be soon be added to the other city facilities. Edina is the only city to ask for a Trash Collection report by weight and the RSW working group will review the findings this year. In 2013, Member Zarrin will be starting a Business Recycling Education Task Force. Members of the task force will include EEC Members, City Staff, Hennepin County Environmental Services, Edina Chamber of Commerce and local business owners. Edina will be a pilot city for Hennepin County for promoting, educating and reviewing commercial recycling.

- C. Education Outreach WG. Member Thompson reviewed the mission of the working group. In April 2012, there was a Dialogue on The Environment, Economy & Food Supply from Global to Local with Dr. Jonathan Foley. In November, Solar Works in Edina was an event where one business and two residents shared their solar installation experiences. Edina Interfaith Environmental Coalition was created to educate energy efficiency and environmental stewardship among the faith communities. In 2013, EEC Film Series will start in March with the Carbon Nation Film. Second Annual April Earth Day Celebration with the topic What's Up with the Weather? Member Thompson invited residents to contact him if they'd like to join the working group.
- D. Student Initiatives. Member Sokol reported that Project Earth received a Green Partners Grant to install hand dryers in the high school bathrooms to remove paper towel waste. Member Brandt reported that Project Earth installed compost centers in the high school lunchroom and installed water bottle fillers to encourage students to use refillable bottles instead of plastic water bottles.
- E. Purchasing Task Force. Member Kostuch said the first green purchasing policy task force annual report will be due this year.
- F. Energy WG. Member Heer gave an overview of EEEP. In 2012, he reported that Edina won an award for PACE from the Environmental Initiative Group. Edina achieved Step 3 for Green Step Cities. The working group gave a recommendation for a more energy efficient Golf Dome. In 2013, Member Heer plans to promote EEEP, Building Energy Efficiency Audits, and continue work on the Green Step Cities program. Member Heer also thanked Mr. Bintner for all of his hard work with the EEC.
- G. Presentations
  - i. McKinstry GESP/Solar (Trish Curtis & Brent Schmidt). Ms. Curtis gave a Project Overview which included Building Envelope Improvements (weatherization upgrades), Solar (solar panels installed at City Hall), Water Conservation (reducing flow of water on showers), and Interior Lighting (for better energy efficiency) within all City facilities. The project cost was \$701,093 with utility savings of \$54,021 and it included incentives of \$284,750 with the project payback occurring within 7.7years.
  - ii. B3 System. Mr. Bintner presented the 3yrs of data on City Facilities using the Building Energy Use Benchmark System. He discussed what the current building energy use is, opportunities exist for energy savings, how previous energy efficiency improvements performed and if the city is meeting their environmental goals.

- iii. ULI Regional Indicators. Rick Carter, consultant at LHB Inc gave the Regional Indicators Report which compared Edina and 20 other cities within MN over a four year period. The report contains Edina's total city use of Energy, Water, Travel, Waste and Greenhouse Gas Emissions among Residential and Commercial/Industrial properties. The goal is to promote efficiency and sustainable change at the scale of the city through multiple tasks.
- iv. Green Step Cities. Chair Sierks said there are 50 cities participating in Green Step Cities which is a free, voluntary, continuous challenge, assistance and recognition framework for taking more sustainable actions. Edina was a pilot city and now has completed Step 3 along with three other cities. There are 28 best practices with 4-8 optional actions under each best practice. Edina has completed 37 actions under 16 best practices. The program is currently developing Steps 4-6. Member Latham thanked Chair Sierks for being instrumental in Edina joining the program.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS. No Comments.**

**VIII. CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

- A. 2013 EEC Workplan. Mr. Bintner reviewed the 2013 EEC Work Plan that was approved by Council. The work plan is Comprehensive City Building Energy Efficiency Project, Energy Efficiency Community Outreach and Education Project, Promote Edina Emerald Energy Program with exploring applications to residential property, Integrate Comprehensive Plan Chapter 10 Into City Operations, Surface Water Quality Policy Exploration, and Update Recycling Licensing Ordinance with language or program related to commercial recycling. Chair Sierks would like to work with City staff to explore what risks might be involved with expanding PACE to residential properties and possibly have it promoted by the EEC April Forum. Member Zarrin introduced her plan for a Business Recycling Education Task Force that will meet once a month every third Wednesday at 3:30pm at the Chamber of Commerce.

Member Latham asked Mr. Bintner why the Urban Forest Task Force was removed as a Work Plan item, since it was on the 2012 Work Plan and that there isn't much staff time involved. Mr. Bintner said it was due to other priorities.

Chair Sierks would like to discuss what the work plan priorities are at the February EEC meeting and decide if the EEC Working Groups are structured appropriately to accomplish the work plan and decide at that time if EEC should recommend that the Urban Forest Task Force proceed forward.

Chair Sierks asked Mr. Bintner to schedule a Work Session with Council. Member Latham proposed that during the work session they can discuss the urban forest task force.

**IX. STAFF COMMENTS. No Comments.**

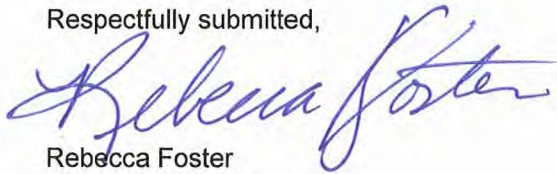
Member Latham said a Community Gardening Task Force was formed at the Park Board meeting. A Community Garden is being proposed in Yorktown Park next to the YMCA. Member Latham said she volunteered to help write standards to manage the Gardens. Member Thompson also volunteered to be on the task force. Member Thompson said he is on the Morningside Neighborhood Association Steering Committee to plan a Community Garden in Morningside on private property.

**Motion made by Member Risser and seconded by Member Zarrin to approve Commissioner Latham and Commissioner Thompson as members on the Community Gardening Task Force. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business on the Commission Agenda, Chair Sierks declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

**Motion made by Member Latham and seconded by Member Kostuch to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Foster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" being more prominent than the last name "Foster".

Rebecca Foster  
GIS Administrator